



**PRESS ADVISORY**

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**EAST LOS ANGELES CELEBRATED OVER 150 YEARS WITH THE  
GRAND DEDICATION OF ITS VERY OWN CIVIC CENTER**

After a decade since community planning meetings began, East Los Angeles hails its  
Civic Center Oasis as an Eastside destination

Civic Center Serves as County Government Services Hub and Community Gathering  
Place complete with Revitalized Lake and Public Art Reflecting East L.A.'s  
Rich and Proud Heritage and Legacy of Civic Empowerment

EAST LOS ANGELES—To commemorate the grand dedication of East L.A.'s very own civic center and its legacy of civic empowerment, County Supervisor Gloria Molina and the community celebrated over 150 years of East L.A. with day-long festivities and a "Concert Under the Stars" showcasing "Ugly Betty's" Tony Plana, Richard Montoya of Culture, and the legendary Tierra, Willie G of Thee Midnites, Mariachi Sol de Mexico. The concert culminated with a fireworks show. During the first half of the day, the civic center was transformed into a venue rich with health educational workshops, lectures, and access to county services. An East L.A. Heroes Gala attended by East L.A. VIPs the night before, honored East L.A.'s heroes who are also depicted in the civic center library's mosaic mural.

The Civic Center represents the identity and cultural pride of the East Los Angeles community, and the culmination of more than 150 years of East Los Angeles.

"This is another historic milestone in East L.A. history. Our community helped shape the East L.A. Civic Center as a civic hub providing local access to services in a culturally-friendly environment -- we have always been a proud community, and we are proud to celebrate this grand accomplishment and our East L.A. oasis," said Molina. "This civic center is a multi-million dollar investment which will continue to serve the community for generations to come, and we welcome visitors to discover East Los Angeles at this spectacular Eastside destination."

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Also bringing in an era of healthy-living, the event offered critical health information, workshops and presentations from local and national health organizations. County services were also showcased. The day's event included: the Flavor of East L.A. Food Court, Healthy-living Cooking Classes and Farmers' Market, Healthy-living Workshops, Lectures and Health Screenings, County Agencies, Community Talent, Suave, Jackie Ibarra, Dionicio Morales

Located in the heart of East L.A., the Civic Center encompasses works of public art throughout the campus and is a nexus of county government agencies, state-of-the-art library, the historic Belvedere Lake and outdoor amphitheatre, the superior court, retail businesses and green spaces.

The adjoining Belvedere Park includes a State-of-the-Art Skate Park, recreational facilities and outdoor exercise zone. The ELA Civic Center will also be a major transit hub when the Metro Eastside Gold Line arrives at the Plaza's new Dionicio Morales Transit Center in 2009.

The Civic Center was planned in partnership with East L.A. residents, civic leaders, the local artist community and business owners through a series of community planning meetings in 1999. Almost a decade ago, we envisioned this oasis filled with various county resources and a strong art component.

Since then, several milestones followed the 2002 groundbreaking: 1) Courthouse demolition, 2002; 2) Civic Center Shopping Center, Oct 2003; 3) Belvedere Lake revitalized and Civic Center Way created, July 2004; 4) New library, Oct 2004; County Hall, Jan, 2007; and 5) Transit Center, Summer 2007.

The community insisted that the Civic Center showcase the work of the best and brightest Latino and East Los Angeles. The civic center artist team includes: Jose Antonio Aguirre, mosaic mural at East L.A. Library lobby; Michael Amescua, steel cut entry monuments at Civic Center Way and County Hall main entrance; Linda Arreola, stone pyramids and central plaza water feature; Rudy Calderon, Stone fish at lake; Roberto Delgado, hand-made silk screen tiles throughout Civic Center walkways and bus transit plaza; and Ricardo Duffy, hand-made ceramic tiles at play areas.

Event participating local and national organizations include: Altamed; Alma family Services; Alzheimer Association; American Cancer Society; American Diabetes Association; American Heart Association; American Lung Association; American Red Cross; Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America; Blue Cross of California; Breathe California; CareFirst; L.A. County Departments of Aging, Consumer Affairs, Fire, Parks, Public Works-Building and Safety, and Regional Planning; East LA Chamber of Commerce; East L.A. Coordinating Council; East L.A. Doctor's Hospital; Healthnet; East L.A. Respiratory Therapy; Kaiser; L.A. Care; Lions Club of America; Lupus International; Maravilla Business Association; March of Dimes; Molina Health Center; National Bone Marrow Program; Planned Parenthood; Salvation Army; Shriners Hospital; Superior Court; USC School of Medicine; University of California Cooperative; White Memorial Medical Center.

Sponsors include: Altamed, AT&T, L.A. County Department of Public Works, Gruen and Associates, Health Net, Kaiser, L.A. County Fair, Southern CA Edison, Southern CA Gas Company – a Sempra Energy Utility, Time Warner.

East L.A.'s shuttle service provided free public transportation all day. For more information about the civic center and county services, dial 2-1-1. The civic center is located at, 4801 E. Third St., L.A. 90022.

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